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Unclassified Summary of Public Positions on INF

Most French papers yesterday used the words "complete harmony," "complete accord," and "entente" to describe the US and French positions on INF. A new UK survey shows over half of those Britons polled oppose cruise missile deployment. [redacted]

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UK

The Guardian said the Vice President clearly hinted in Paris that the US "might settle for an interim agreement." The Times reported that the Thatcher government is determined to resist demands for a "dual key" arrangement, fearing that any change in the 1979 NATO decision would weaken commitment to the program on the part of the other basing countries. The Daily Telegraph (Tory) published the results of a Gallup poll which shows 54 percent of British voters are opposed to "American controlled cruise missiles," while two-thirds of those polled also oppose unilateral nuclear disarmament. The paper concluded that the quickest way for the government to undercut the antinuclear movement in the UK is to concede on the "dual key" issue. [redacted]

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West Germany

Several West German papers reported statements by Carl-Friedrich von Weizsaecker, a nuclear scientist who is an adviser to Vogel, that if INF deployments become necessary, they should be sea-, not land-based. The Frankfurter Allgemeine quoted von Weizsaecker as saying that he had discussed this issue with members of Vogel's campaign staff and that there is agreement "in principle" among them. The moderate Die Welt editorialized yesterday that "it was no surprise that the latest State Department report" on the USSR showed "that the Reagan Administration deems it necessary again to expose Soviet violation of human rights." The paper speculated this indicated "that Washington has little hope for progress at Geneva." Westdeutsche Allgemeine (independent) observed that the Vice President's trip had "contributed much to clarifying US policy. Bush nowhere left any doubt that the Reagan administration is seriously seeking an agreement in Geneva that also will meet European interests." [redacted]

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France

Le Monde editorialized that France and the US are "on the same wavelength" on defense issues and that both are equally worried about growing neutralism in West Germany. France-Soir (moderate/socialist) observed that US-French relations are "excellent" and that "Mr. Bush seemed particularly pleased with his brief visit to Paris." Figaro-Aurore (conservative) cited the "entente" between Paris and Washington on European security. Quotidien (rightist) quoted the Vice President as saying that he "was very pleased with the attitude of the Europeans." Le Matin (socialist) described the Vice President as a "happy man who was convinced of having reached his objectives," i.e., to let Europeans know that the US is open to all proposals and that "Reagan's proposals are currently the best proposals." [redacted]

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Italy

The conservative Il Giornale, in an article entitled "Andropov's Lies," used a recent Eagleburger article to conclude that Moscow's arguments on INF are "false." The leftist La Repubblica commented it was ironic that the Vice President received such a warm welcome in Paris considering that "almost two years ago George Bush was received at the Elysee in an atmosphere laden with suspicion." La Stampa (centrist) summarized the position taken by European leaders during their talks with the Vice President as one of agreement both on deployment and on the need for serious negotiations at Geneva. [redacted]

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